



HERITAGE ASSET NEWS & DEVELOPMENTS (FORMERLY “HERITAGE MATTERS”)

Notes on Heritage Asset and Cultural Resources Management in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

HERITAGE ASSET NEWS & DEVELOPMENTS (HAND), FORMERLY “HERITAGE MATTERS” *are notes on heritage asset and cultural resources management in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. It is intended to contribute to the Chief of Engineers’ strategic goal of effective communication and will aim to assist subject matter experts in the heritage assets – cultural resources community (subject matter experts), planners, tribal liaisons, operations specialists and all team members in the Corps concerned about the management of the cultural environment.*

Talk to the HAND

HERITAGE ASSET NEWS & DEVELOPMENTS (HAND) is an unofficial newsletter of the recently reorganized Office of Water Projects Review in the Headquarters’ Directorate of Civil Works. Formerly titled “Heritage Matters”, the name change reflects the acknowledgement of several factors. First, we discovered that the Department of the Interior had a newsletter titled “Heritage Matters” before the Corps. Although Interior’s newsletter has not appeared for some time, it is possible they could revive the periodical and claim first rights to the title. Second, in his March 2003 Executive Order, “*Preserve America*,” President Bush views the cultural environment in new and positive ways, ensuring that we manage *cultural and natural heritage assets* for the benefit of all Americans. We are, therefore, borrowing from the Administration’s own initiatives in the new title of this letter.

We have new leadership for the newsletter under USACE 2012. Paul Rubenstein, Deputy Federal Preservation Officer, will continue to produce the newsletter issues, but oversight and direction are now provided by Forester Einarsen, Environmental Team Leader and Doug Lamont, Chief, Office of Water Projects Review.

As with the production of “Heritage Matters”, we will continue to rely on you, the readers, practitioners and subject matter experts to help build the issues of HAND. Please see the section below on “Instructions for Contributors” and provide information and articles that will assist and educate Corps colleagues working in cultural resources management, tribal affairs, planning, operations and military programs. Send material at any time to paul.d.rubenstein@usace.army.mil or fax information to (202) 761-0140. We are also particularly keen on receiving any appropriate contributions from specialists working with our non-Federal partners, leaseholders or permittees.

Two Looters Cited at Lake Sakakawea

Few details are available, but in May 2004, Park Ranger Mike Key in the Oahe Project Office apprehended two individuals violating the Archeological Resources Protection Act. Ranger Key discovered one individual in the Deep Water Creek area of the Lake operating a three-wheel vehicle and removing artifacts from Corps property. Another individual was caught in the Van Hook Arm Area. Ranger Key worked with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Police Station in New Town and cooperated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Bismark , North Dakota.

National Trust for Historic Preservation Sues USACE

The National Trust for Historic Preservation (Trust) recently filed a complaint against the Corps in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia. The complaint asserts that the Norfolk District erred in its processing of a Clean Water Act Permit for a permittee seeking to construct Courtland Farms Rural Village (the Project). Based on its scope of analysis, Norfolk District found the issuance of the permit would have “no effect” on Oatlands Plantation and the Oatlands Historic District. Oatlands is a National Historic Landmark owned by the Trust. The Project is defined by the Plaintiffs as a 200 acre mixed-use development of single-family homes, town homes and commercial development. Defendant (USACE) issued a provisional permit under Nationwide Permit Number 39 for the discharge of fill into a total of .429 acres. The issues before the court are procedural (concerning the section 106 process) and substantive. The substantive issue appears to be one of viewshed with the Trust asserting that about 75 percent of the 200 acre development will be visible to the Oatlands Historic District and the Corps asserting that none of the .429 acre permitted activities will be visible to Oatlands.

First “Preserve America” Presidential Awards Presented in White House Ceremony

President and Mrs. Bush presented the first four *Preserve America* Presidential Awards at a White House ceremony May 3, 2004. They were joined by ACHP Chairman John L. Nau and U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Gail Norton. The four projects that earned the award are the Blue Ridge Heritage Initiative in North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and Georgia; Lackawanna Heritage Valley in Pennsylvania; the Historic Beaumont Hotel in Ouray, Colorado; and the Historic Raven Natural Resources Learning Center in Kootenai National Forest, Montana

Three Corps Districts prepared nomination packages for the 2004 award competition. The districts and their nominated projects were: Pittsburgh District’s Johnstown Urban Greenway Project; New Orleans District’s Gibson Conferences on the Mississippi River; and, Philadelphia District’s Fort Delaware and Pea Patch Island Shoreline Protection / Historic Restoration Project.

Omaha District Completes Section 106 Programmatic Agreement for Missouri River Projects (From the Associated Press and Indianz.com)

“A group of tribes signed an agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to protect historic and cultural sites along the Missouri River. The agreement spells out how the Corps will work with the tribes to address cultural preservation issues. The Corps will identify historic sites, monitor areas for erosion and vandalism, establish a law enforcement system, provide educational programs and signs, and protect sensitive information. Tribes along the river have long accused the Corps of ignoring concerns over burial grounds and sacred sites. A federal judge in 2002 said the Corps violated the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act by failing to consult with the Yankton Sioux Tribe of South Dakota. The tribe’s ancestors were removed from a work site along the river.” For the full story see The Billings Gazette at:

<http://www.billingsgazette.com/index.php?display=rednews/2004/04/14/build/state/55-missouri-pact.inc>

Legislative Affairs

The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs (SCIA) and the House Resources Committee (HRC) currently have no hearings scheduled pertaining directly to the USACE management of heritage assets and cultural resources. To view schedules, past Committee hearings, identify Committee members, and view member biographies go to the Committee homepages at: <http://www.senate.gov/~scia/index.html> and <http://resourcescommittee.house.gov/>

Instructions for Contributors to HERITAGE ASSET NEWS & DEVELOPMENTS

This newsletter is intended to improve communication on management of the cultural environment throughout the Corps. We hope that future editions will contain contributed narratives from team members throughout the agency. With your help, these notes can become a forum for sharing of experiences and an opportunity to learn from others. We welcome your thoughts, questions, success stories and lessons learned so that we can share them on these pages. Contributed articles can be as long as it takes to relay information, but we recommend 2 – 3 paragraphs. Please:

- - Use MS Word
 - - Use “normal” style
 - - Use Times Roman font, 10 point
 - - Left justify text with double spacing between paragraphs
 - - Begin articles with a short title in bold Arial font, 11 point
 - - Follow the title with the author(s) name and organization
 - - Include an end line with contact information including telephone number and e-mail address
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